



WHO'S STOKED FOR
'DARK KNIGHT RISES?' 4

THERE'S A RAT
ON THE ICE 12

HOW MANY SIT-UPS
IS THAT PIE WORTH? 17

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ed
eye

Monday
DECEMBER 26, 2011

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

THERE GOES YOUR VACATION

It's bikini weather somewhere.
Use your days off before they slip away **page 7**



FEELING BEACHY @
redeyechicago.com

EAT

NO COOKING REQUIRED

Klay Oven

414 N. Orleans St. 312-527-3999

Get a discount on dinner when you order carry-out at this River North Indian restaurant, offering a 25 percent discount on all orders picked up during the first hour of dinner service Monday through Friday. Skip the pots and pans and dig in on classics like keema (ground lamb) samosas and sweet fruit lassis. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Prices vary.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

Still need to plan for 2011's last big party night? Metromix has you covered. chicago.metromix.com/nye

DRINK

BIRD IS THE WORD

Kirkwood Bar and Grill

2934 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-770-0700

Put your memory to the test at Chicken Fried Trivia, a game night where teams of two to six compete to see who has the best useless knowledge onhand. Specials include \$14 Miller Lite and Coors Light buckets, \$5 Svedka bombs and, of course, a \$9 three-piece fried chicken dinner. 8 p.m. No cover.

SLURP AND SIP

Branch 27

1371 W. Chicago Ave. 312-850-2700

Too much red meat this holiday season? Get your seafood fix at mussel Mondays, a weekly favorite at this West Town restaurant. Choose from four to five different preparations and wash it all down with a Bell's draft beer. 5-10 p.m. \$13.

DO

O TANNENBAUM

Mercury Theater

3745 N. Southport Ave. 773-325-1700

Still in the Christmas spirit? Learn more about the annual tree tradition at a post-holiday showing of "The Christmas Schooner," a musical about late-19th-century immigrants who risked their lives to transport fir trees from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Chicago for the holiday. \$22.50-\$49.50.

COMEDIC VETERANS

iO

3541 N. Clark St. 773-880-0199

Lah away your beginning-of-the-week blues at The Armando Diaz Experience, the longest running show at this Wrigleyville comedy theater. Featuring the troupe's most accomplished performers and alumni, this improv performance takes one actor's personal stories and asks the cast to create hilarious scenes inspired by them. Shows regularly feature celebrity guests, so cross your fingers and hope for some well-known comedian cameos. 8:30 p.m. \$12.



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BOYS vs. GIRLS?



NOT WHEN IT COMES TO MATH, NEW STUDY SAYS

CNN

The idea that boys are innately better at math than girls does not add up, say researchers whose analysis of international math tests showed girls have the same ability as boys to succeed in math.

"If you take the averages worldwide, you do not see any gender gaps—boys and girls perform about the same, on average," said Jonathan Kane, one of the study's authors.

The study by University of Wisconsin researchers Kane and Janet Mertz suggests that cultural and social factors predict whether someone is good at math—not gender.

"We have to stop selling T-shirts to girls that say, 'I'm too pretty to do math,'" Kane said. "Our stereotypes are hurting

our math education. If you take half the population and lecture to them about how girls aren't good in math and how no one will expect you to do well in math because you're a girl, you're building in the cultural factor that makes girls not perform as well."

The study, published in the January 2012 issue of Notices of the American Mathematical Society, analyzed data from 86 countries through two international standardized tests: the Programme for International Student Assessment and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study. It also looked at how girls and boys perform at the highest end of the math ability spectrum, in elite competitions such as the International Mathematical Olympiad or in SAT math tests administered to students under age 13.

“What we really need to do is change our culture to tell people regardless of their gender, that they should try to be whatever they want to be.”

—Janet E. Mertz, University of Wisconsin researcher

GENDER GAP?

Researchers found that in many of the countries they compared, there was no gap between girls' and boys' average scores on the tests or between their performance at the elite level in math. In the U.S., the gap narrowed over time.

13:1

» In the 1970s, there were 13 boys for every one girl who scored exceptionally high on the SAT math test as a child.

3:1

» By the 1990s, the ratio had decreased to three boys for every one girl.

DIFFERENT RESULTS

The researchers found that countries that ranked higher in gender equity—how women perform relative to men in education, health, political power and economic participation—have higher math scores for both girls and boys.

31 OUT OF 128

The United States' ranking for gender equality

ONE THEORY

Greater male variability hypothesis. Noun.
Theory that men have a naturally greater range of intellectual ability, with men forming a majority of those with extremely high ability and a majority of those with extremely low abilities. Researchers found this theory did not hold true because test results did not show that boys had the highest scores in every country, and over time, they did not continue to be overrepresented at the elite level.

It's going to be a good 'Knight'



Stephen Markley

» redeye@tribune.com

"Uh, I just watched #TheDarkKnightRises trailer, and I feel like my erection might be visible from space."

Or so I tweeted from the dazed fugue state I found myself in following the two minutes and change I spent at the height of guy-movie arousal for Christopher Nolan's third (and final?) Batman movie.

Yes, feel free to make your clever joke about how the "visibility" would have to rely on Pentagon spy satellites that can count the hairs on the beards of Taliban fighters—whatever! That movie looks awesome.

I've decided that Hollywood should just arrive on Chris Nolan's lawn with dump trucks of money, leave it all there in mountains and see what he comes up with. When I saw "Batman Begins" in college, I was convinced that Nolan had made The Best Superhero Movie Ever (with all respect to the Nic Cage masterpiece "Ghost Rider"), only to watch him eclipse that film so completely with its sequel, "The Dark Knight," that it makes the first film look trifling by comparison.

Obviously, I don't know if "The Dark Knight Rises" will match the second film



Bale as Batman

or—dare I even say it?—surpass it, but I'm totally impressed that Nolan conceived of the third film before the explosion of Occupy Wall Street. Judging from the trailer, the film appears to center around a neo-Bolshevik revolution led by villains Selina Kyle (aka Catwoman) and Bane.

Played by Anne Hathaway, Kyle tells Christian Bale's Bruce Wayne, "You think this can last? There's a storm coming, Mr. Wayne. You and your friends better batten down the hatches. Because when it hits, you're all going to wonder how you ever thought you could live so large and leave so little for the rest of us."

I mean, talk about capturing the zeitgeist. There were even rumors that Nolan thought of filming at Zuccotti Park in October with the protests providing background, but ultimately (and wisely) viewed this as a cheap ploy (filming a few blocks away from Wall Street, though).

Reinventing the superhero narrative as a commentary on wealth inequality and society's realignment into a permanent plutocratic ruling order is a fine idea made even better given the legend of Bruce Wayne as the multibillionaire playboy oligarch who turns his fortunes toward pursuing justice. My hope is that Nolan's film will ask the obvious question: "Justice for whom?"

Whereas "The Dark Knight" drew subtler parallels between the superhero narrative and the anxieties of our times, "The Dark Knight Rises" appears as though it will go straight for the jugular. The second film used Heath Ledger's incredible performance as the Joker to stylize the decade's primary media villain: the terrorist unfettered by rational decision-making, who views wanton destruction as its own existential goal. The Joker was the terrorist who couldn't be bargained with because "some men just want to watch the world burn."

By turning to a narrative so overtly political, I hope Nolan will create one of the most interesting action films, possibly even the crown jewel of the superhero genre.

And hell, if he doesn't, there's always "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance." It's awesome because Nicolas Cage's head turns into a skull that's on fire, you see.

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR STEPHEN MARKLEY IS THE AUTHOR OF "PUBLISH THIS BOOK." REDEYECHICAGO.COM/MARKLEY

FIVE-DAY TRENDCAST

Nobody can predict the news, but we've got a pretty good idea what we'll be talking about this week.

MONDAY



The day after

You know all those Christmas gifts and gift cards you got that you'll never use? Time to start the trading, returning and selling. Discreetly, of course.

TUESDAY



Buon giorno!

Season 4 of "Jersey Shore" drops on DVD. This is the season when they all get drunk and make poor choices. Oh, and they go to Italy.

WEDNESDAY



So long

You're excused from this one. North Korea says goodbye to its "dear leader" during Kim Jong Il's funeral.

THURSDAY



He's the best

Want to watch a rising football star? Newly minted Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III and his Baylor Bears play Washington in the Alamo Bowl.

FRIDAY



Buuuuuuulls!

It's already the fourth game of the lockout-shortened season. Catch the Bulls on TV against the L.A. Clippers before they return for their first home game Sunday.

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TO-DO LIST

So it's December and you've realized it's too late to use those three vacation days for that trip to Cancun you've been dreaming of (since spring break). Don't fret—RedEye has devised a few ways to imagine you're spending Christmas in July-like weather in Chicago. **T.S.**



» Grab the sunscreen and hit the tanning bed. If you're against artificial rays, slather on some self-tanner and occupy tub.

» Head for the couch for some channel surfing (the next best thing to actual surfing). "Hawaii Five-O" reruns should satisfy your urge for sightseeing.



» Rock those mandals. (With socks of course—you don't want to catch pneumonia.)

» Use the lovely winter slush Chicago is famous for in your margarita. Rock salt rim, anyone?



VACAY IS OK

\$#!&—IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR AND YOU STILL HAVE UNUSED TIME OFF!

By Tracy Swartz

REDEYE

Chicagoans who have procrastinated this year may end up with a worthless gift this holiday season: their unused vacation days.

American employees, on average, have about six paid vacation days left by the end of the year, according to a survey released last month by travel site [hotwire.com](#).

These workers may have to scramble to use those days on a staycation or a simple road trip to Indiana or the like because of expensive holiday travel.

Even if employers do allow banking days for next year, employees should take their vacation now, said workplace experts, who stressed the importance of using vacation to alleviate stress, especially around the holidays.

"I think you should use [vacation days] for the classical reason you're given them. You come back refreshed," said Brad Karsh, president and founder of JobBound, a Lakeview-based job search assistance company.

Some employees think it's best not to take vacation days to impress their boss or because they feel

they don't need the time off, Karsh said.

But one upside to taking vacation time, he said, is that the employees can show their managers how much they're needed as work piles up during the break.

Karsh recommends that employees request vacation time as early as possible and, if it's for the holiday season, Sept. 1 is a good deadline.

Lorena Ornelas, who works at a Loop law firm, submitted her request in October for four days off this month. The Rogers Park resident got the days she wanted but said it's typically frowned upon at her workplace to take vacation during December because of end-of-the-year deadlines.

"End of the quarter, end of the year is always super, super busy," said Ornelas, a legal assistant. "It's just a general sense that December is not a good time to take time off."

Ornelas, 35, isn't even using her vacay to visit the United Arab Emirates (her dream trip). She's staying home and spending the time finishing assignments about eating disorders and feminist theory as she works toward a dual master's degree in social work and gender studies at Loyola.

Though she's not frolicking in the sun, Ornelas

said she wasn't going to let her paid vacation days go to waste.

"I always find a use for them by the end of the year," Ornelas said. "I would never just let them lapse."

Illinois doesn't have a "use it or lose it" vacation policy, which can vary from state to state. The government says vacation time is determined in the contract between the employee and employer.

Workers who haven't yet used their vacation time that expires this year should sit down with their employer and discuss their options, said Emily Zorza, division director for Robert Half International, a staffing services firm that has an office in the Loop.

Zorza recommends these employees list their day-to-day tasks and figure out who can cover them so it will be easier to go on vacation and recharge.

"It's a great way to keep motivation for the position in the new year," Zorza said.

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chicago



The Chicago Park District's Theatre on the Lake announced last week that its popular summer program has two new "artistic creators" in Michael Patrick Thornton and Meghan Beals McCarthy.

WHO'S BUILDING BUILDINGS?

Skyline in holding pattern as downtown businesses wait to pull trigger on towers



WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE

Chicago Tribune

Sara Lee broke developers' hearts this month when it announced it will relocate its North American meat business to a building erected in 1946 at 400 S. Jefferson St.

Then the American Medical Association said it plans to move its Chicago headquarters into the former IBM Building at 330 N. Wabash Ave. in 2013.

The trend of large tenants moving into existing buildings is expected to continue through next year—much to the chagrin of developers such as Richard Gatto, executive vice president at the Alter Group, which hopes to build a 20-story tower at 625 W. Adams St. “Maybe we can get the building started in 2013. If we are lucky, at the end of 2012,” he said.

For Chicago, a new building going up would be a sign that the downtown office market finally was shaking out of its funk and moving forward. But commercial real estate experts say the likelihood of that happening next year depends on a raft of factors, including the mood of the country entering an election year, the ability of developers to arrange for financing and whether

GG

[A new building] makes everybody feel better about the climate, but there is still a fair amount of vacancy in the market. Unfortunately, what happens is that large tenants want to be in new buildings.”

—Michael Svets, Wells Fargo Commercial Real Estate Group

the total office vacancy rate downtown continues to shrink from above 16 percent.

“[The drop] would tell me that the market is stronger, tighter,” said Michael Svets, a division manager with Wells Fargo Commercial Real Estate Group, adding that he would like vacancy rates to be below 10 percent.

During the recession, as tenants went out of business and jobs disappeared, landlords decreased rental rates to retain tenants, Svets said. As a result, cash flow dropped and many building owners had trouble repaying loans, which affected their creditworthiness.

Since then, occupancy rates have improved, but rental rates still are lagging, Svets said. If the market holds off new construction, he added, it will continue to tighten and rents will go up.

“[A new building] makes everybody feel better about the climate, but there is still a fair amount of vacancy in the market,” Svets said. “Unfortunately, what happens is that large tenants want to be in new buildings.”

And that’s why the industry continues to monitor companies looking for space large enough to anchor a new building, including Google, which is seeking 300,000 to 350,000 square feet.

3 FOR ALL



BRENT LEWIS/TRIBUNE

TRANSIT RENTALS

As part of its marketing contract with Jones Lang LaSalle, the CTA is looking to modernize and expand concessions offerings and fill empty spaces at elevated and subway stations. Recently, the transit agency rolled out a new partnership with Redbox rental kiosks. Here's a look at how the project is going. TRIBUNE

136 Number of leased spaces the CTA has to offer

84 Number of spaces that currently are rented

71 Number of spaces that were rented in April



HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE

THE DIGIT

36 inches

Measurement of the cast iron water main that broke last week in Pilsen, pouring a river of water into streets, basements and businesses.

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**Pricey year at pump**

The average American household will have spent \$4,155 at the gas pump when this year is over, The Associated Press reports. At 8.4 percent of the median family income, that's the highest chunk since 1981.

Heard of them?

File this under the "Really?!" category. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, human rights activist Ronan Farrow and pop stars Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber are people to watch, according to Forbes magazine's list of top-achieving people under age 30.

Kids these days ...

Close to one in three American teens and young adults get arrested by age 23, suggests a new study that finds more of them are being booked now than in the 1960s. Researchers said the increase might reflect a police force that's more apt to arrest young people than in the past.

1 Royally demoted

Spain's royal family has lost one of its members, at least in Madrid's Wax Museum. The museum has moved the figure of the Duke of Palma, who is married to King Juan Carlos' younger daughter and whose nonprofit organization is under investigation for alleged misuse of public money, out of the royal family display.

Fake tan, no sun

Women who use lotions and gels to produce a fake suntan tend to cut back on outdoor sunbathing and use of tanning beds, with close to 40 percent who use such products saying they limited their time in the sun, U.S. researchers said.

2 Marathon man

A top British sprinter desperate to run in his home London Olympics next year has raised \$50,500 in sponsorship by auctioning himself on eBay. James Ellington told the BBC he received 71 bids from 45 bidders over a 10-day period.

QUOTED & NOTED

The Occupy protesters have made their voices heard in cities across the country, including Chicago. And now their mantra—"We are the 99 percent"—has been named the top quote of 2011, according to Yale University librarian Fred Shapiro. Shapiro's sixth annual list is an update to "The Yale Book of Quotations," edited by Shapiro and published by Yale University Press. Here are the quotes on this year's list:



"We are the 99 percent."

—slogan of the **Occupy movement**

2 "There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there—good for you! But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for."

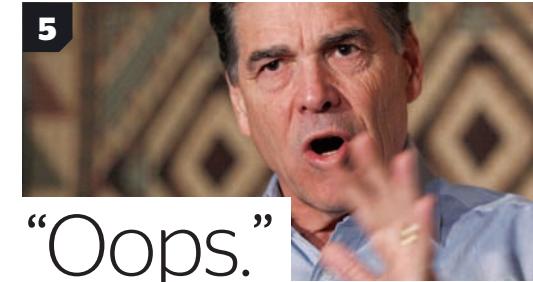
—U.S. Senate candidate **Elizabeth Warren**, in Andover, Mass., in August

3 "My friends and I have been coddled long enough by a billionaire-friendly Congress."

—Billionaire **Warren Buffett**, New York Times op-ed, August 15

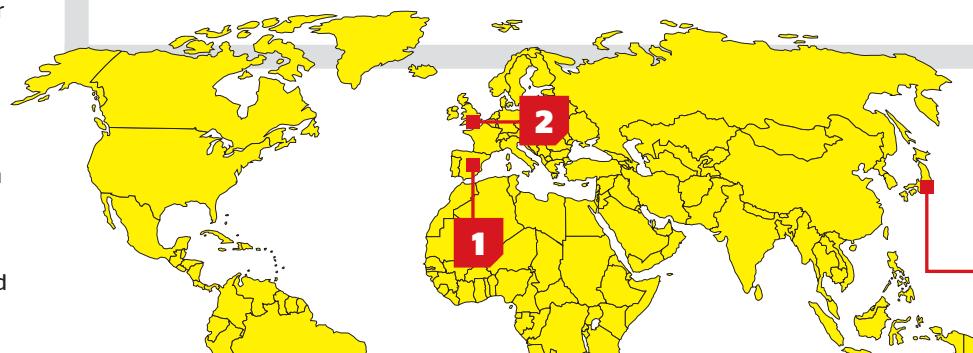
4 "I believe in evolution and trust scientists on global warming. Call me crazy."

—Presidential candidate **Jon Huntsman** on Twitter, August 18



"Oops."

—Presidential candidate **Rick Perry** after failing to remember the third federal agency he would eliminate, during a November 9 GOP presidential debate

**THE DIGIT**

\$130,000

3 That's the estimated value of a toilet studded with more than 72,000 pieces of Swarovski cut crystal. The throne, made in partnership with toilet manufacturer INAX, is on display in Tokyo through the end of the year.



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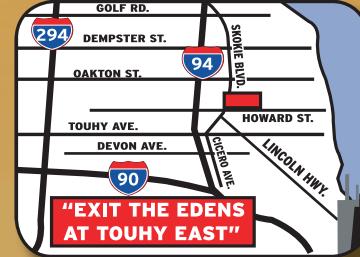
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sports

HEAD CASE

BLACKHAWKS' BOLLAND PLAYS THE ROLE OF AGITATOR PERFECTLY

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

A thesaurus is essential when describing the Blackhawks' Dave Bolland. To his opponents, he's a nightmare. A pest. A nuisance. A troublemaker. A rat. To his teammates, he's a stalwart. An asset. A weapon. A necessity. A rat.

Hmm, looks like that last one's the perfect starting point. That, and Bolland's ability to shut down the opposition's top scorers, which is his primary task.

"He's got good play selection, he's got good patience with the puck," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "He seems to know the dangers defensively. He knows the strength of the opposition's top guys and he can nullify them pretty efficiently. When you don't have him, you really miss him."

Potent scorers such as Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane, Marian Hossa and Patrick Sharp are the main reason the Hawks are one of the top teams in the NHL, and a favorite to win the Stanley Cup. At the same time, Bolland's defensive skills and stealthy offense (eight goals, five assists through Wednesday) are just as valuable.

He also thinks outside the penalty box, so to speak.

"He's really smart, so he knows how to play defensively and the little things after the whistle when the refs aren't looking—whacking sticks out of hands, pushing guys' helmets over their faces, doing little things like that that really get on their nerves," Toews said. "Once he sees guys getting pissed off, he knows he's got ya, and even after that he just turns it around on you."

How do you know when it's working? "When they start swattin' at him and swea-

rin' at him, trying to hit him," Toews said. "It's crazy."

Driving opponents nuts: check. Any other benefits of Bolland's tactics?

"The biggest thing is when they're taking penalties against him—frustration, retaliation penalties," Kane said. "I've always said I'd love to play against him to see how he is to play against when he gets under those guys' skin.

"[He's] maybe like a Ron Artest, someone who can shut down the opposing team, but he's good offensively. He's always yapping away, too."

For the record, Bolland could do without the nickname.

"You sort of embrace it a little bit, but also I think nobody likes to be called 'The Rat,'" the 25-year-old center said. "I don't like it really, but my other nickname is 'The Greyhound.' [Former teammate] Ben Eager called me greyhound because I'm so skinny, and that's the one I've stuck with."

Nevertheless, he said he took to the role of annoying the other teams' stars a few seasons ago, shortly before the Hawks won the Cup in 2009-10.

"Whenever you follow [opponents] around the ice and are tapping at them, they know that you're around," Bolland said. "I may put my two cents in and chirp a little bit, but I think most of the time it's just playing those

Say what, Dave?

On the ice, Dave Bolland uses words to knock opponents off balance. RedEye threw a few words at the Blackhawks center and asked him to fire back.

1. Red Wings

SUCK

2. Sedin brothers

sisters

3. Chelsea Dagger

Scottish

4. Luongo

Nose.
He has a big nose.

5. Lockout

not good

6. Toronto

home

7. Happy Gilmore

funny

8. Shootout

fun

9. "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Jim Cornelison

10. Oh Canada

great song

11. Mullet

Kane

12. Trash talk

[Dan] Carcillo.
He likes to trash talk.
He's good at it.

other players hard, always being on them and playing tough against them."

Sometimes those two cents stretch 2,000 miles—like to Vancouver. The Hawks have played the Canucks in three straight post-seasons, eliminating them twice. The rivals' next regular-season showdown isn't until Jan. 31, but during a recent appearance on WGN-AM 720, he referred to Vancouver's Sedin brothers, Henrik and Daniel, as "sisters."

Bolland was asked if they still would be sisters if they were Blackhawks.

"Well, they'll never become Hawks. ... We'd be sure not to let them on our team," he said. "And yeah, they probably still would be sisters. I think they might sleep in bunk beds. The older one has the bottom one, the younger

one got the top."

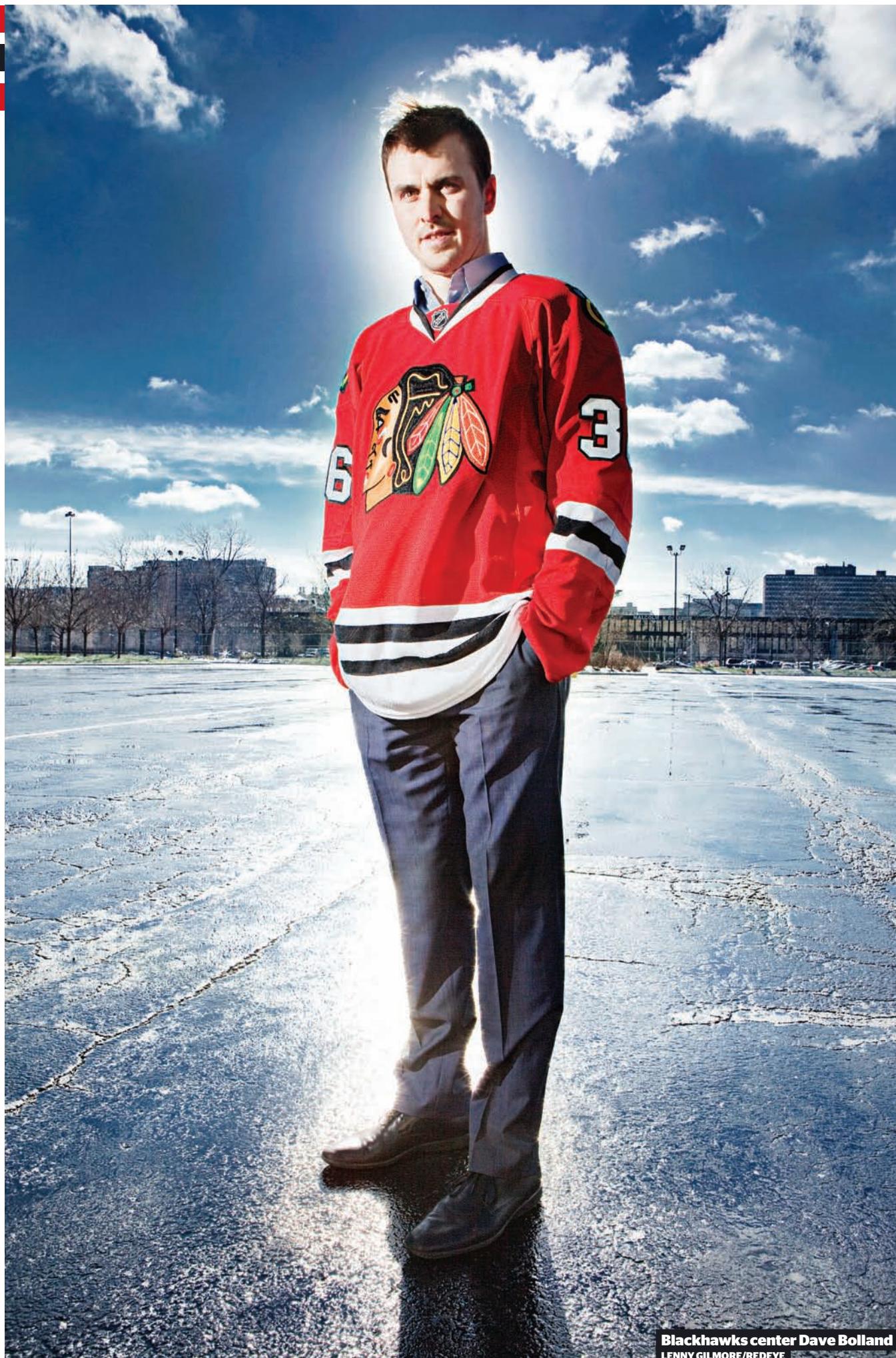
A few days later, Vancouver coach Alain Vigneault played into Bolland's hands.

"When you have comments like Bolland's, obviously [it's] an individual whose IQ is probably the size of a birdseed and he's got a face that only a mother could look at," Vigneault said, according to TSN.

Yikes. Clearly Bolland's at the top of his game in the agitation department. His teammates, for their part, certainly notice.

"To do what he does every night, the defensive role, and to be offensive, it's a hard task to have, and he's been good," winger Bryan Bickell said. "That's why Chicago likes him the way he is."

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ANATOMY OF A SHORTHANDED GOAL

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Dave Bolland admits to being a cheater—though not the kind who gets suspended.

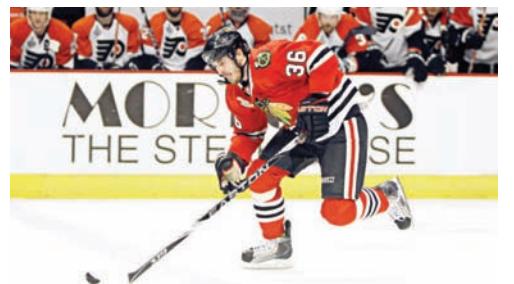
"I think sometimes I might gamble too much [and] it may come back and bite me," the Blackhawks center said of his approach to penalty killing. "But I think ... you've got to cheat sometimes to get those breaks. You might get scored on and something [bad] may happen, but if you do cheat you might get that goal."

Although Bolland lacks blazing speed—"He's hard to lose; he's not moving very fast," teammate Jonathan Toews said, laughing—he is a threat to turn a penalty kill into a breakaway.

Bolland has seven shorthanded goals in his NHL career, and one of his favorites came in Game 1 of the 2010 Stanley Cup finals against Philadelphia. He took RedEye through the play.

STEP 1: STEAL THE PUCK

"The puck came around [the boards] and I think [Flyers defenseman Braydon] Coburn tried to pull it across the blue line. I think he was trying to take a soft shot. I just poked it away from him."



STEP 2: LOSE THE DEFENSE

"From our blue line to their blue line, I knew I had to get as much speed as I can because I knew another guy would be coming at me."



STEP 3: BEAT THE GOALIE

"By the time I got to their blue line I started to realize that I had enough room to slow down and really look at what I had to do. I think I stuck it five-hole on their goalie [Michael Leighton]."

SCOTT STRAZZANTE/Tribune File Photos

txtable**UNWRAP**

Which of these five holiday gifts is the best? Text "mon" followed by the number next to your choice to **87708**.



Leo Ebersole
@sharkvshyena
Recovering Doritoholic



Elliott Serrano
@geektome
Geek specialist



Sarah Spain
@sarahspain
ESPN 1000



Marc Silverman
@waddle
and silvy
ESPN 1000



Stick figure
redeyesports
@tribune.com
Skinny dude,
giant head

1

Who was your biggest priority on Christmas Day: Bears or Bulls?

The first priority on Christmas Day is figuring out why Mike Tyson's tiger is in my hotel suite.

My new Xbox 360 that Santa brought me 'cuz I was a good boy this year.

The Bulls. They're like a newborn child, full of hope. The Bears are in hospice.

You really have to ask? Bulls gave me a Rose. Bears gave me a lump of coal.

I got a stuffed bear that I love. And I'm not talking about Lovie.

2

Who's the Grinch of sports this year?

David Stern canceled half the NBA season, then bungled the trade of one of its stars. But, c'mon, it's Penn State.

Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan "If I can't trade for Chris Paul, nobody can" Gilbert.

Kobe's wife, Vanessa. That divorce filing means he's giving her a \$180 million Christmas present.

Jerry Angelo. I asked for gifts. He gave me Sam Hurd, Roy Williams and Marion Barber.

The Miami Heat. All of them.

3

If you could hand out one sports Christmas gift, what would it be?

Tim Tebow Holy Sweat—and to all an awkward night.

A "Get Out of Federal Prison and on a Plane to Mexico Free Card" for Sam Hurd.

I would give the Bulls Dwight Howard, though I'm afraid he won't fit down the chimney.

A championship for the best sports fans in the world. Yes, I'm kissing up to you.

A time machine, so we can go back to January and try to get it right this time. Do-over!

4

What holiday song best describes Chicago sports?

"God Rest Ye Merry Baseball Fans."

"Baby, It's Cold Outside"

"Jingle Bells, Hanie smells, Barber laid an egg. Hurd sold blow, Bears have no "O" and the playoffs got away."

Sam Hurd singing "let it snow, let it snow, let it snow."

"Winter Blunderland."

5

Let's have your college bowl season prediction.

Northwestern destroys Texas A&M. Bonus: Aggies alum Rick Perry learns how to count, albeit by sevens.

Nobody will get any free tattoos. Golf trips, on the other hand ...

I predict I won't watch any bowl games because college football is more corrupt than Illinois politics.

I predict I won't watch. This college bowl thought brought to you by Weed Eater.

If it's full of pudding, it'll be over before it gets started. Mmmmmm ...



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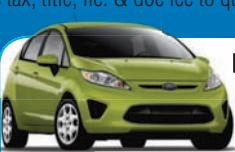
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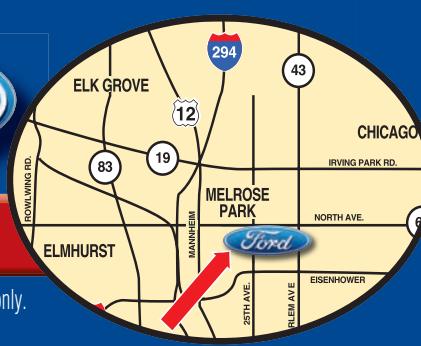


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TIP

You can increase flavor when reducing calories by adding ingredients such as garlic, white pepper, fresh herbs, scallions or caramelized onions to mashed potatoes.

Ho, ho, uh-oh

Feeling jiggly? Get yourself back on track after indulging in holiday goodies

Chicago Tribune

If ever you need incentive to wash the dishes after a holiday feast, consider what a little sudsing might do for your hips.

Activity, whether through the gym, sports or household chores, is your best friend during the gluttonous holidays—the key to indulging in pumpkin toffee cheesecake without looking or feeling like one yourself.

The American Council on Exercise a few years ago estimated the average holiday dinner packs 3,000 calories and 229 grams of fat. Add in the snacking and drinking you do throughout the day, and you've ingested about 4,500 calories, the council said—a sure path to weight gain, as 3,500 calories makes a pound, and the average person hoping to maintain their weight is supposed to consume 2,000 calories (for women) or 2,500 (for men) a day (though that varies by height, weight and activity level).

So what does it take to burn it off?

Fighting the turkey coma and getting your butt off the

couch is a good start. After that, any number of activities, from the vigorous to the mundane, can melt calories. Take cooking, which requires reaching, bending and mixing. If you're the one slaving in the kitchen all day, you really can earn yourself a slice of pie (though mind the mindless grazing).

Here's a list of some popular holiday fare, with the amount of exercise you'd have to do to burn it off.* Chef and registered dietitian Rebecca Cameron, owner of **haute nutrition.com**, offered ideas for making each of these holiday favorites healthier.

THE PER-SERVING NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION IS BASED ON RECIPES ON THE BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS WEBSITE (BHG.COM). THE EXERCISE CALCULATIONS ARE FROM EVERYDAYHEALTH.COM/CALORIE-COUNTER.ASPX AND ASSUME A 150-POUND PERSON; IT TAKES LONGER TO BURN OFF THE SAME NUMBER OF CALORIES IF YOU WEIGH LESS. NOTE THAT THE MEAL HERE HAS A TOTAL OF ONLY 2,081 CALORIES. BETTER HOMES USES LOW-CALORIE AND FAT-FREE SUBSTITUTES IN MOST OF THE RECIPES, SO YOUR OWN HOMEMADE VERSIONS MAY HAVE HIGHER CALORIE AND FAT CONTENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU REACH FOR SECOND HELPINGS.

EGGNOG

Calories: 201 **Fat:** 13g (7g saturated)
Sodium: 71mg

Burn it off: 23 minutes of touch football or 47 minutes of bowling

Health tip: If you're buying from the store, a soy nog or light eggnog trims calories and fat considerably. If you're making from scratch, find a recipe that uses nonfat milk, fat-free half-and-half and fewer egg yolks. You can compensate with a thickener like cornstarch or vanilla pudding mix and a flavoring agent like vanilla extract, citrus zest and cinnamon or nutmeg.

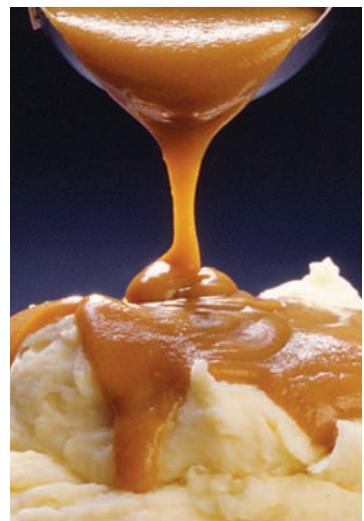


ROAST TURKEY AND STUFFING

Calories: 392 **Fat:** 19g (5g saturated)
Sodium: 343

Burn it off: 35 minutes of running (6 mph, a 10-minute mile) or 53 minutes of brisk walking

Health tip: Remove the skin and stick to white meat, which will reduce the fat by about 3 grams per 3 ounces of meat. For the stuffing, try substituting half the butter with applesauce, and instead of pork sausage try turkey sausage.



MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY

(Made with butter-flavored sprinkles instead of real butter)

Calories: 201 **Fat:** less than 1g **Sodium:** 442mg

Burn it off: 23 minutes on the elliptical trainer or 54 minutes of vacuuming

Health tip: Cook potatoes in chicken broth instead of water for more flavor, or try a more flavorful potato such as Yukon Gold, caribe or purple potato. Save calories by using half mashed potatoes mixed with half pureed cauliflower.



CANDIED YAMS

Calories: 398 **Fat:** 9g (5g saturated)
Sodium: 103mg

Burn it off: 39 minutes on the stair-stepper or 61 minutes of light free-style swimming

Health tip: Try reducing the butter and swapping out some of the sugar for orange juice, light maple syrup or sugar substitutes such as Splenda. Add flavor with pineapple, apples or cranberries.



GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

Calories: 121 **Fat:** 6g (1g saturated)
Sodium: 330mg

Burn it off: 13 minutes of push-ups or 31 minutes of beginner Pilates

Health tip: Try a low-sodium, low-fat mushroom soup and use caramelized onions instead of fried. If the recipe calls for heavy cream, swap it out for fat-free half-and-half or decrease the amount of butter used in the recipe.



CLASSIC GINGERBREAD MAN COOKIE

Calories: 58 **Fat:** 2g (1g saturated)
Sodium: 41mg

Burn it off: 5 minutes of jumping rope or 40 minutes of sexual activity

Health tip: You could replace some of the butter or shortening with applesauce or prune puree. Or try slightly lighter gingerbread biscuits. Or just have a cookie and watch your portion size.



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LOOK FOR LESS

Los Angeles Times

Model Brooklyn Decker makes it hard for just about everyone else on the planet to shop for a swimsuit, let alone actually wear one in public. She's got killer curves, almost as if her body were made for wearing those tiny triangles of Lycra.

So it comes as no surprise that the blond beauty from Ohio was chosen as the cover girl for Sports Illustrated's 2012 swimsuit calendar. She's already been featured in numerous spreads for the magazine's swimsuit editions and last year made headlines when she graced the cover in a bright yellow bikini.



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horoscope

ROMANCE PLANET

BY JENNIFER SHEPHERD | READ MORE AT LIPSTICKMYSTIC.COM

**Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Jupiter is reminding you that you're too sexy for that relationship or that job. You're filled with the urge to make changes. Remember, reality is rarely glamorous.

**Aquarius** Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You could be surprised at how peaceful your holidays are thanks to a happy moon. You might end up having some enlightening chats with your parents. Connect with your roots and draw strength from family.

**Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20

Your honey is in a bit of a snit, and if you're not careful, you could end up experiencing pointless arguments over the holidays. Avoid unnecessary melodrama. Be a peacemaker.

**Aries** March 21-April 19

Uranus is kicking up experimental vibes, so try something wild in the bedroom. Share some of your wildest fantasies and make them come true.

**Taurus** April 20-May 20

A bountiful sun is putting you in a generous mood. You'll give your lover 20 orgasms, or you'll donate money to an animal shelter or homeless shelter.

**Gemini** May 21-June 21

Venus is helping you get in touch with what you really want in a relationship. It won't do you any good to keep denying the truth. If you want to start dating other people, let your partner know.



Jared Leto

**Cancer** June 22-July 22

With the sun giving you sexual migraines, you're wondering if you and your lover will ever be in sync. This is just a dry spell. Then again, it could be the beginning of the end.

**Leo** July 23-Aug. 22

A mischievous moon is reminding you that the holidays always end up like group therapy sessions, with family members bitching about old emotional wounds. Entertain yourself by sending some sexy text messages.

**Virgo** Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Jupiter is finally going direct in a friendly sign, and this will create much better money flow for you. As an Earth sign, you take your career very seriously, and you have to have cash coming in to be happy. Share some happy vibes with your honey.

**Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Your lover could be making a list and checking it twice, and not in a good way. You might be presented with demands, and you're probably not in the mood to accommodate. Neptune says don't give in to intimidation.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 21

An emotional moon is turning you into a sentimental fool. You could confess to a former flame that you've never gotten over him or her. Or you might lose yourself in daydreams about a soulmate you hope to meet one day.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your energy levels are low. Mercury is reminding you to take some time to chill out, relax and connect with your true desires. With a little focus, you can make your dreams come true in 2012.

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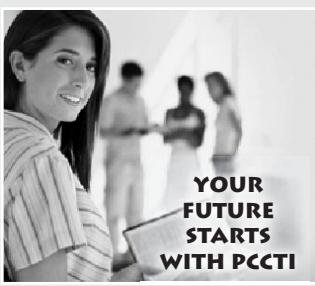
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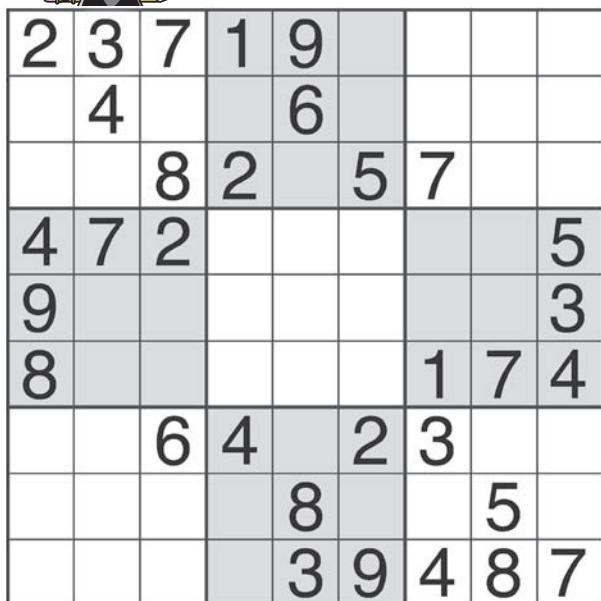
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15 _with; carrying
16 Bush adviser Karl
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20 Retina's place
21 Coors product
22 Secret _, spy
23 Reclining _: comfy seat
25 Hot tub
26 Horrified
28 Granny Smiths & McIntoshes
31 Film holders
32 Milk's section in the market
34 Tabby or tiger
36 Musical symbol
37 _about; discuss lightly
38 _Scotia
39 _and hers
40 _and groom
41 Row of seminar speakers
42 Leftover fragments
44 Oust from the throne
45 Actor Jason _
46 Sultan's wives
47 Capital of Bulgaria
50 Connection
51 Rage
54 Booming
57 Skin mark
58 Pig's comment
59 Sudden forward rush
60 Head covering
61 Pea casings
62 "Lovely Rita, _ maid..."
63 Building wings

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2 Unattractive
3 Salad dressing choice
4 Observe
5 Even though
6 More unusual
7 Stench

- 8 Kitten's cry
9 Late Landers
10 Thrifty
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12 Lendl of tennis
13 Sassy; flippant
19 Too sentimental
21 Singing voice
24 _-dollar; 50 cents
25 Lively; agile
26 Middle of a foot
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37 Soft cheese
38 Back of a neck
40 Rye or pita
41 _ up; become cheerful again
- 43 Flutters the eyelids
44 Peril
46 Door hanger's piece
47 Go no farther
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49 Subsidize
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N9NE Steakhouse

Dennis Rodman has been stopping by N9NE since it opened in 2000, including last month, mainly due to his relationship with the West Loop steakhouse's general manager, Tim Griffin, whom Rodman met during his time with the Bulls.

Japonais

Joakim Noah comes here during the season (usually with a Bulls teammate, once with

Michael Jordan's Steakhouse

Don't be surprised if this becomes a popular destination among past and present NBA stars, considering it's co-owned by the biggest NBA player who ever lived. Jordan has dined here at least five times since it opened in August.

Rodman), while the Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Marion, a Waukegan native, tends to come here during the offseason.

The Underground

It's where the Bulls partied

Tribune file photos



Hub 51

If you're looking for a Bulls player, there might not be a better bet than Hub 51. Kyle Korver has been known to visit after home games—he likes the pulled chicken nachos—and Luol Deng seems to party any chance he gets at Hub's downstairs club, Sub 51.



likely to find Joakim Noah here. The Bulls star has come in with teammate Carlos Boozer multiple times, and once with the San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker.

Paris Club

Its upstairs lounge, Studio Paris, is one of the most popular hangouts in Chicago, so it's a safe bet for NBA players looking for a fun, exclusive night out in the city. Both Shawn Marion and the Atlanta Hawks' Kirk Hinrich were on hand when I stopped by in August.

Sunda

This River North sushi spot has become a bit of a Miami Heat hangout over the past

after eliminating the Atlanta Hawks from the playoffs in May, and where they drowned their sorrows after getting eliminated in the next round by the Miami Heat. The Underground also is where Joakim Noah celebrated his 26th birthday in February with teammates—cake and all.

year. Of course, it helps that Dwyane Wade and Juwan Howard both are Chicago natives. As for LeBron James, he's been spotted here twice.

Cuvee

LeBron James has partied at this River North club at least three times, but you're more

Chicago Cut Steakhouse

NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley lives in Arizona but he already has visited this River North spot, which opened in October 2010, at least seven times. Sir Charles, who tends to order the New York strip steak, corn and a bottle of cabernet sauvignon—once told ESPN 1000's "Waddle & Silvy" show: "That's my place. The food is great. The atmosphere is great. ... If they don't give me a good table [tonight], I'm going to buy that place and fire everyone."

Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab

He may not dine at Joe's as often as Bears coach Lovie Smith, but Bulls coach Tom Thibodeau became a regular at this popular Chicago coaches' hangout in his first year with the Bulls. The 2010-11 NBA Coach of the Year was spotted at Joe's multiple times just last month.

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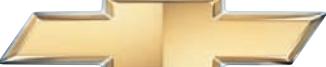
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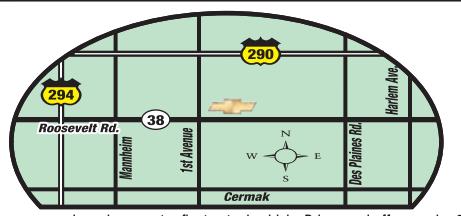
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red hot



Totally Grinchin'

This holiday season, millions of families gathered 'round the glow of their TVs to watch ... "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians"? Not according to a Fandango user poll, which rated the 1964 flick as the worst Christmas movie of all time. Rounding out the Top 5 were "Silent Night, Deadly Night," "Jingle All The Way," "Jack Frost" and "Santa With Muscles." We may need to see that last one.

HOT DATE FEB. 7

That's the premiere date for Season 7 of "The Real Housewives of Orange County." The cast will be making one addition: Heather Dubrow, a former actress—and brunnell—who is married to a plastic surgeon, [people.com](#) reports.

Studio strikes back

Who's more powerful than Wolverine? Try a federal judge. The New York man who illegally uploaded an unfinished version of "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" was sentenced to a year in federal prison, [variety.com](#) reports. Fox estimated that 15 million people downloaded the illegal copy. Just imagine how much that is in box office tickets.

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"WHAT'S BLONDE, CHAOTIC, AND COVERED IN GLITTER?"

—Billboard, naming Ke\$ha one of the worst-dressed musicians of the year. Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga and Nicki Minaj were among the music mag's best-dressed.

Star pupil

Rooney Mara went back to school for her role in "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo." "I had motorcycle class from 9 to 11, and then I went to dialect class, and then I had skateboarding, and then I had computer training, and then I had kickboxing," she told [mtv.com](#). "I just feel like I learned so much. And that's kind of the most incredible part about my job." Yeah, totally sweet job.



Play it again

What did we watch in 2011? A lot of "Modern Family," it turns out.

TiVo released the most DVR'd moments of the year, and these are the Top 5:

1. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's incomplete pass to Mike Wallace during Super Bowl XLV
2. The eulogy for Charlie Sheen's character on "Two and a Half Men"
3. The best picture Oscar win for "The King's Speech" at the Academy Awards
4. "Modern Family" episode "After the Fire"
5. "Modern Family" episode "Hit and Run"

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